

OPINION 2014 (Case 3136)***Crotaphytus vestigium* Smith & Tanner, 1972 (Reptilia, Squamata):
specific name conserved**

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Reptilia; Squamata; CROTAPHYTIDAE; *Crotaphytus fasciolatus*; *Crotaphytus vestigium*; Mexico; California.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary power the specific name *fasciolatus* Mocquard, 1903, as published in the binomen *Crotaphytus fasciolatus*, is hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy.
- (2) The name *vestigium* Smith & Tanner, 1972, as published in the trinomen *Crotaphytus insularis vestigium*, is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.
- (3) The following names are hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *fasciolatus* Mocquard, 1903, as published in the binomen *Crotaphytus fasciolatus* and as suppressed in (1) above;
 - (b) *fasciatus* Mocquard, 1899, as published in the binomen *Crotaphytus fasciatus* (a junior primary homonym of *Crotaphytus fasciatus* Hallowell, 1853).

History of Case 3136

An application for the conservation of the specific name of *Crotaphytus vestigium* Smith & Tanner, 1972 was received from Dr J.A. McGuire (*Division of Natural Sciences, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, U.S.A.*) on 23 August 1999. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 57: 158–161 (September 2000). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

An opposing comment was published in BZN 58: 59 (March 2001). A reply from the author of the application, together with a supportive comment, was published at the same time.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 December 2001 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 57: 159. At the close of the voting period on 1 March 2002 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes – 17: Bock, Böhme, Brothers, Calder, Eschmeyer, Evenhuis, Fortey, Halliday, Kraus, Macpherson, Mahnert, Mawatari, Nielsen, Papp, Patterson, Song, Štys

Negative votes – 7: Alonso-Zarazaga, Bouchet, Cogger, Lamas, Martins de Souza, Minelli and van Tol.

No votes were received from Dupuis, Kerzhner, Ng and Rosenberg.

Cogger commented: 'It is misleading to assert (para. 5 of the application) that 'the name *Crotaphytus fasciolatus* Mocquard, 1903 has never been used for the species for

which it was intended, during a period of nearly 100 years by virtue of having been incorrectly assigned to the synonymy of *Gambelia wizlizenii* (Baird & Girard, 1852), because the species to which it was applied was itself not recognised by herpetologists for a long time. This fact alone suggests that the taxonomy of this group of lizards will still undergo significant changes, so that the suppression of the senior subjective synonym *C. fasciolatus* is unwarranted. For the sake of the issues of stability and universality identified by the applicant I would agree to priority being given to the younger name *C. vestigium* by authors who consider the latter and *C. fasciatus* to be synonyms'.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on an Official List and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

- fasciatus*, *Crotaphytus*, Mocquard, 1899, *Nouvelles Archives du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle*, Paris, (4)1: 303.
fasciolatus, *Crotaphytus*, Mocquard, 1903, *Bulletin du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle*, Paris, 9: 209.
vestigium, *Crotaphytus insularis*, Smith & Tanner, 1972, *Great Basin Naturalist*, 32: 29.